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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1	
	Egypt-Israel: Nasir would accept indirect talks if under UN auspices. (Page 5)
25X1	
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25X1	

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Exempt

EGYPT-ISRAEL: NASIR TOLD ROBERT ANDERSON ON 5 MAY THAT INDIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF THEY TAKE PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UN MEDIATOR JARRING.

NASIR HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN THIS EXPLICIT.

IT IS NEVERTHELESS EVIDENT THAT MAJOR OBSTACLES

STILL STAND IN THE WAY OF EVEN INDIRECT TALKS AND

THAT A SETTLEMENT IS AS FAR AWAY AS EVER. IN A

CONVERSATION WITH THE FORMER SECRETARY OF THE TREAS—

URY IN CAIRO

NASIR REITERATED THAT ALTHOUGH EGYPT IS
WILLING TO WORK THROUGH JARRING, ANY DISCUSSIONS
WITH ISRAEL COULD NOT BE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS, AS THE
ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN INSISTING THEY MUST.

JARRING, MEANWHILE, IS NOW INCLINED TO ABANDON HIS COMPLICATED FORMULA FOR GETTING THE PARTIES TO-GETHER IN FAVOR OF SIMPLY ASKING ISRAEL, EGYPT, AND JORDAN TO MEET IN NEW YORK UNDER HIS AUSPICES WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. CAIRO MAY BALK AT SUCH AN UNCONDITIONAL ARRANGEMENT.

IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RIAD IN CAIRO, ANDERSON WAS TOLD THAT EGYPT DOES NOT INSIST THAT THE 22 NOVEMBER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION BE REGARDED AS SELF-IMPLEMENTING--A KEY ISSUE BECAUSE THE RESOLUTION CALLS, IN PART, FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EGYPTIANS OBVIOUSLY WANT A MORE FORTH-COMING ISRAELI STATEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION BEFORE AGREEING TO PARLEY. RIAD SAID EGYPT WOULD NOT INSIST ON EVACUATION FIRST.

NASIR STRESSED THAT HE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT GIVE UP 'AN INCH' OF TERRITORY TO ISRAEL. REGARD-ING THE GAZA STRIP--NEVER AN INTEGRAL PART OF EGYPT--NASIR SAID HE WOULD GO ALONG WITH JUST ABOUT ANY SOLUTION WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE AN ISRAELI TAKE-OVER. HE SAID THE SUEZ CANAL COULD BE OPENED IN GRADUAL STAGES BUT ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROGRESS ON THE REFUGEE QUESTION. HE REACTED FAVORABLY TO AN IDEA

25X1

8 May 68

25X1

FLOATED BY ANDERSON BY WHICH AN INTERNATIONAL COM-MISSION WOULD RESETTLE THE REFUGEES WITH FUNDS FROM ISRAEL, THE US AND OTHERS.

DESPITE HIS EXPRESSED WISH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLE-MENT, NASIR REPORTEDLY BELIEVES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE.

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1	Top Secreted For Release 2003/05/29 : CIA-RDP79T009757611100090003-6	
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